GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5060
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2007
INSTITUTES OF BIO-TECHNOLOGY
Barman Shri Ranen

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make Institutes of Bio- Technology as self-sustaining Institutes; and

(b) if so,the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. Under the ~ministrative control of the Department of Biotechnology,the following seven Autonomous Institutions are functioning:

(i) National Institute ofImmunology (NII),New Delhi

(ii) National Centre for Plant Genome Research (NCPGR), New Delhi

(iii) Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar

(iv) National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune

(v) Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad

(vi) Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal

(vii) National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar

The broad mandate of these institutes is to undertake and promote,guide and coordinate. research of high calibre in basic and applied areas of biotechnology such as immunology, stem cell biology, cancer biology, DNA fmgerprinting & diagnostics, neuroscience developing transgenic plants with improved agronomic characters and nutritive qualities etc. All these institutions are funded through core grants under Plan head.In case of NII and NCCS expenditure is also met to a small extent under Non-Plan allocations annually.

The basic and applied research in these institutes generates patents, publications & prototype technologies. The only source of income other than plan/non-plan grant support from the Government is in the form of royalties in transfer of technologies to industries.However,the revenue realized from the technology transfer activities can only meet a fraction of expenditure involved in biotechnology research which is expensive and requires long gestation period for technology development, validation and transfer. Therefore, there are no proposals for making these insqtutes self sustainable the near future.